

WANT A VIRGINIAN.

WATER COMMITTEE WISH TO PATRONIZE NATIVE ELECTRICIANS.

NORTHERN BIDS LAID OVER.

Ironing of Electrolysis the Question of the Hour—Connell Takes No Action on Gas-Works Appropriation—An Investigation.

The Council Committee on Water devoted the larger part of a two-hours' session last night to the discussion of electrolysis, its effects, and remedy. Bids were received from three distinguished electricians, who had been asked what they would charge to undertake the investigation of the injury to water and gas mains directly traceable to the street railway systems. These bids were laid upon the table, however, at the request of Mr. Winston, who desired a strong light in the interest of Virginia electricians.

The sub-committee on Clear Water was ready to report, and the matter went over until the next meeting of the committee.

The Common Council, called to meet in special session, to pass upon the appropriation of \$2,000 recommended by the Finance Committee to carry out repairs and alterations at the gas-works, took no action in the premises, as the necessary two-thirds majority was not present.

The Health Committee postponed the investigation of charges against one of the physicians to the poor, who is alleged to have refused to attend a patient unless guaranteed a fee of \$1.

The Water Committee's Session. The following members were present at this meeting: Messrs. Tanner, Winston, Ferguson, Montgomery, Whalen, and Gordon.

A petition from the employees of the department for leave of absence in accordance with the usual custom was favorably received and recommended to the Council.

After the transaction of the usual routine business the subject of electrolysis was taken up.

Messrs. Dalmay H. Maury, Jr., of Peoria; A. A. Knudson, of New York, and E. E. Brownlee, of New York, to letters sent out recently by Superintendent Boling, offering to conduct an investigation, the object of which was to determine the extent of the injury done to the gas and water mains for stipulated sums.

AVOID NEEDLESS EXPENSE. Mr. Winston thought the services of an expert would only be necessary for about five days, all the preliminary work being done by Superintendent Boling.

Mr. Tanner thought it was better to have an expert, as the time which the experts mentioned as being necessary to make a full and complete examination, Mr. Tanner thought it the duty of the committee to get the most reliable report.

The effect of an amateur investigation on the general public, and in the courts, if any legal questions arise, would not, he said, be convincing.

Superintendent Boling said the question was interesting the members of the syndicate who were in the field for the franchises of the Richmond Railway and Electric Company. It was a question of vital importance to the city, and they were not to be taken for granted. The tests should be made before the Main-street franchise expires. He did not think that Superintendent Thompson had the space time required by the investigation, and he personally, had not time to devote to it.

Mr. Gordon said the examination made by city officials would be regarded by the courts as made from an interested standpoint.

EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE. The chairman asked the superintendent what he thought the damage would amount to from electrolysis.

Mr. Boling said he believed it would not be less than \$50,000, and possibly as much as \$100,000. He said the amount appropriated by the Council for these tests is \$1,000, and the quotation of Mr. Brownlee, the lowest of the three, is \$60.

Mr. Brownlee was present and made an interesting statement about electrolysis, and gave some facts and figures based on his experiences in other cities.

After some further discussion Mr. Montgomery moved that Mr. Brownlee be employed to do the work.

Mr. Winston took exception to this motion. He argued that there were many Virginians who stand high in the electrical world, and he thought a Virginian should be given the preference. He argued for a delay of a week or so.

GIVE VIRGINIANS PREFERENCE. Mr. Gordon: Do you want a Virginian or a resident of Virginia to do this work? Mr. Winston: I think we should employ a Virginian, and a graduate of the University of Virginia.

He suggested the name of Mr. Charles E. Childs, of Ashland, editor of the Electrical World, as one of the best posted electricians in the country. He thought it would be taken as a reflection on Virginia that the committee had not communicated with any of the men who had gone North. He moved as a substitute that Mr. Boling should communicate with the leading electrical papers, and ask a view to electing one of the names of Virginia-born electricians who are capable of conducting the examination. This motion was adopted, and the matter was laid over until a meeting to be called by the chairman, when the necessary information should be at hand.

USE OF CITY WATER. The ordinance authorizing the Committee on Water to contract with persons owning or occupying real estate lying outside of the corporate limits, but abutting on any street in which the city has a water main, for the consumption of such property with such main and for the use of water, was vigorously opposed by Mr. Gordon, who said he would vote against it and against every application for its passage.

Mr. Montgomery favored the adoption of the ordinance, and his motion to this effect was adopted.

Mr. Gordon, chairman of the sub-committee appointed to consider and report on methods for clearing the water, said his committee was not prepared to report, and the matter went over until the next meeting.

Charges Against a Physician. The Committee on Health met at 8:15 o'clock. Present, Messrs. Hobson (chairman), Camp, Neale, Seay, and Donahoe.

The consideration of charges preferred against one of the physicians to the poor at a previous meeting was postponed until the next regular meeting, owing to the absence of witnesses. The specific charge is that the physician failed to attend a charity patient when called upon to do so, except upon the patient agreeing to pay a fee of \$1.

The payroll of the department, amounting to \$1,115.18, and sundry bills, were approved and ordered to be paid.

A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Neale and Camp, was authorized to purchase two new carts for use in the Third District, and the sub-committee on Stables was empowered to purchase a horse for use in the Second District.

The award of the trash-house privilege was deferred to a later meeting.

Council Paths to Meet. A meeting of the Common Council was to have been held at 8 o'clock last night, to consider a recommendation of the Finance Committee that \$2,000 be appropriated to improve the gas-works, but the absence of two-thirds majority necessary to adopt the appropriation.

There were present Messrs. Camp, Cottrell, Curtis, Ebel, Ferguson, Garber, Guitt, Hobson, Miner, Neale, Peters, Tanner, Wallerstein, Whalen, Winston, and Wood.

Mr. Wallerstein, chairman of the Committee on Light, and two other members, have signed a call for a meeting on Tuesday night next at 8 o'clock, for the consideration of the Finance Committee's recommendation.

Other Committees. The Committee on Second Market met at 7 o'clock, with Messrs. Hobson, Ferriter, Gordon, and Miner present.

The sanitary tax for June amounted to \$113.30. The pay-roll and bills of the department were ordered to be paid, and on motion of Mr. Ferriter, the clerk was instructed to employ Mr. Oliver Jones during the months of August and September to assist in cleaning the market.

The Committee on Schools met at 7:30 and transacted routine business. The claims of the Mechanics' Institute for the past month were approved and ordered to be paid.

Meetings to Be Held To-Day. The Committee on Streets meets at 5 o'clock this afternoon, on Third Market, at 5:30, on St. John's Burying-Ground, at 8 P. M.

TWO PRETTY MARRIAGES. Miss Johnson Weds Mr. Lucy; Miss Clarke Becomes Mrs. Wilburn.

Mr. Sefton W. Lucy and Miss Emma Johnson, popular young people of this city, were quietly married Wednesday evening at 5:30 o'clock at the residence of Rev. C. M. Chumbley, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian church.

The young couple had intended to be married last night, and were going on a bridal trip to New York, accompanied by the sister of the bride. For some reason, however, they decided to change their plans and be married at once, not taking their family and friends into consideration until the knot had been tied.

The bride was tastefully attired in white organdie, with lace and satin trimmings. The best man was Mr. Charles E. Cole, and Miss Lucy, sister of the groom, was bridesmaid. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. J. C. Nugent, of Home Place. She is a very attractive and pretty blonde. Mr. Lucy is a popular employee of the Richmond Locomotive and Machine-Works. They will make their residence at Home Place.

Another pretty marriage was solemnized by Rev. Mr. Chumbley on Tuesday evening at 9 o'clock. At this time Miss Zula Chumbley, daughter of the bride, became the bride of Mr. Samuel Wilburn. The ceremony was performed at the bride's residence, and was witnessed by the friends of both families.

WILL ORGANIZE POST F. Travelling Men of Alexandria to Organize—Richmond Interested.

To-night a post of the Travelers' Protective Association will be organized in Alexandria. Richmond travelling-men are very much interested in this pleasant event, and the officers of Post A—Messrs. C. W. Saunders, president; R. B. Wallthall, secretary, and D. S. Harwood—will go up to-day to be present.

Major M. H. McCreary, of this city, a member of Post A, now employed as an organizer for Virginia, has canvassed Alexandria, and has greatly interested the business and salesmen. There have been many applications for membership already received.

The post will be known as "F" and will make five organizations in the State.

YOUNG WERNER LOCATED. Missing Son of Policeman Werner Found in Baltimore.

Burgardt, son of Policeman Louis Werner, of the First Police District, who left this city without the knowledge of his parents on last Saturday, was located in Baltimore yesterday. He is well, and is expected to return home to-day.

His parents and their friends are greatly relieved that Mr. Werner is safe, and will welcome him home.

Until last Saturday Mr. Werner was employed at Still's ticket agency, on Main street.

Brought Here for Burial. The remains of Mr. Abraham Reinsberg, who died Wednesday evening in Warrenton, were brought to this city last night for burial. They were taken to the mortuary chapel at the Hebrew Cemetery, where the funeral services will be conducted this morning at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Reinsberg was in the 32d year of his age, and had been a resident of Warrenton for six years. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Caroline Ullman, who resided with him, Mary Spilman, and Mr. Ullman, the latter a grandson of the deceased, accompanied the remains to Richmond.

A special to the Dispatch from Warrenton says: "Mr. Reinsberg was a man of considerable ability, and was in high esteem here. He had amassed a fortune during his lifetime. The old Reinsberg store here began as a very small affair in the time of our grandfathers, and to-day it is the largest establishment of the kind in town."

Others who accompanied the remains were Joseph Ullman, the manager of Mr. Joseph Ullman, the residence of Mr. Joseph Ullman, is one of the handsomest dwelling-houses on Culpeper street.

At the Roof Garden. The Roof Garden has been visited by a great many people during this week. The most comfortable place these warm evenings to sit and enjoy the breeze, and the beautiful view of the city, is a good company of vaudeville entertainers are on the stage.

Multy and Heath, in "The Recruit," and Armin and Wagner, in "Opera in the Kitchen," are popular with the audience. The Roof Garden is a most enjoyable place to spend the evening. A matinee will be given at 3:30 o'clock to-morrow.

Caron and Herbert, a highly recommended comedy acrobatic act, are the head-liners of next week's new bill.

The Equitable's Anniversary. A magnificent banquet at Waldorf-Astoria last night closed the three days' celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Equitable Life Assurance Company. The celebration drew to New York the leading agents of the company throughout the United States, and the city was thronged with representatives. Among those in attendance from this State were Messrs. Howard and Oscar Seay, of the Equitable, and Mr. W. L. Gordon, and H. B. Kohn, of Richmond; James R. Lupton, of Harrisonburg; Hugh S. Lupton, of Winchester; and R. F. Valentine, of Charlottesville.

At the Auditorium. The good night, after so much rain, induced a very large crowd to go out to the Auditorium last night and enjoy the fine bill there presented.

Billy Van and the Collys are nightly groing in favor, while Stewart and Miller caught the crowd with their clever work. Little Miss Mollie Boomer, who had many friends here already, had made more by her cleverness and originality. The regular performance will be given to-night and to-morrow for to-morrow afternoon at 4:30 o'clock.

Largest Crowd of the Week. Clear weather and the splendid vaudeville proved a magnet that drew to the Auditorium last night the largest crowd of the week.

Wilson and Halpin, in a hilarious tramp comedy, were sharing with the success of the bill, while the comedy sketch of Lynch and Jewell is a drawing card.

A special matinee will be given to-morrow afternoon at 4:30 o'clock.

Two Fingers Amputated. Jimmie Hays, a small boy employed at the biscuit-factory, had the four fingers of one of his hands badly mashed yesterday morning about 1:30 o'clock.

Frank M. Cunningham, in charge of the City Hospital, had Jimmie brought to the City Hospital, and the necessary amputation of two of the fingers was performed, successfully by Dr. J. Wyatt Davis.

NAVY PERSONNEL BILL. DECISIONS UNDER IT TOUCHING ENGINEERS AND SHORE SERVICE.

SOME CURIOS FROM CUBA. Many North Carolina Excursionists in Washington—Army and Navy Orders—Postal and Personal Notes of Interest.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27.—(Special.)—The Secretary of the Navy rendered a decision yesterday to the effect that a former engineer officer transferred to the line, with the rank of commander or captain, and assigned to duty as second in command of a navy-yard or shore station, shall not act as commandant of the yard or station in the absence of the commandant. The decision was based on a provision of the navy personnel bill, which provides for the transfer of engineer officers to the line. The Secretary has interpreted that provision to mean that former engineers who have attained rank in the line shall perform only engineering duty while on shore service.

CURIOS FROM CUBA. The post-office museum received yesterday from Director Rathbone, of the Cuban postal service, an antique machine formerly used in the Habana post-office for cancelling stamps. Accompanying it was a letter-box, which was placed in the lobby of the Habana post-office for the reception of mail after the regular hours for the closing of the mail for Spain. One cent additional postage was charged on letters dropped into this box.

NORTH CAROLINA EXCURSION. There is a large excursion of North Carolinians in the city, and many pages of hotel registers are filled with their names. They come from points as far south as Wilmington, and as far north as Weldon, including Wilson, Goldsboro, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, New Bern, and Kinston. They are taking in all the departments, the Capitol, the new Library, about Vernon, Arlington, and all the suburbs, resorting from Yorktown, to Cabin John bridge, and are enjoying themselves hugely.

ARMY ORDERS. By direction of the Secretary of War, Major Charles Newbold, paymaster, United States Army, at Fort Monroe, Va., will pay troops at the following posts: Washington Barracks, District of Columbia, and Fort Caswell, North Carolina. The payments ordered will be made in funds in the hands of the Fort Caswell will be sent to Wilmington, N. C.

NAVAL NOTES. Paymaster-Clark M. McCreary is ordered for duty as chief clerk to the general storekeeper at the navy-yard, Norfolk.

Assistant-Paymaster H. B. Stevens is detached from the Bureau of Equipment, and ordered to the Norfolk yard, for duty in connection with the Alexander.

Naval-Constructor Baxter, who was formerly at the Norfolk yard, has just returned from Europe, and is ordered to Boston.

PERSONAL. Representative W. A. Jones, who has been on a business trip to New York, is again in the city.

Mr. W. H. Fowle, who was Collector of Internal Revenue at Lynchburg, in succession to General Fitzhugh Lee, now occupies an official position in the War Department.

D. L. Porter, of Staunton, Va., is at the Hotel Johnson.

Hon. Marshall McCormick, of Berryville, is in the city, stopping at the Metropolitan. Other guests there are Mrs. H. P. Vase, Misses Madge Vase, Blund Schofield, Nellie Cummings, and Mary Vase, of Hamilton, Va.; of Danville, Va.; Mrs. J. A. Long, Wilson, N. C.; Conrad Kronsaler, Berryville, Va.; Captain A. C. Carson, Front Royal, Va.; W. W. Letew, Richmond, Va., and Benjamin Milnes, of Staunton.

Mr. James A. F. Bryan, of Johnston, who has been visiting his aunt, Mrs. Susie Scott, of this city, for the past three weeks, will return home to-morrow. His grandmother will accompany him to the train. His daughter, Mrs. J. W. Bryan, of Staunton, will also accompany him.

POSTAL. Among the fourth-class postmasters appointed to-day are the following: Charles J. Gearing, vice William A. Smith, removed, at Newmarket, Va.; John W. Worley, removed, at Pembroke, Glies county, Va. Those commissioned are: Samuel T. Whiteheads, All-Healing Springs, N. C., a money-order office, and John A. Gann, Oak Forest, N. C.

New post-offices have been established at Emily, Moore county, N. C.; Jonathan J. Martindale, postmaster, and Underwood, Moore county, N. C.; Nell Underwood, postmaster.

Others commissioned are Lela L. Wright, Aral, Va.; Hanmon M. Duty, Duty, Va., and George B. Cooper, Hill-hardstown, N. C.

THE LOUISIANA LYNCHINGS. Three of the Victims, Governor Foster Says, American Citizens.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27.—The State Department has received from Governor Foster, of Louisiana, a preliminary report upon the killing of the five Americans at Vicksburg. The point of most interest and importance is the Governor's statement that he has been officially advised that three of the men were naturalized American citizens. This statement is in direct conflict with the advice that came to the State Department through the Italian consular office at New Orleans, which sent agents to the country to secure information on this point.

Governor Foster records in his report an earnest disposition on the part of the Sheriff of Madison county, where the affair occurred, to bring the perpetrators of the killing to justice, and to lay all of the facts before the grand jury of the county. That body is not at present in session, so that it cannot undertake to look into the case before the next term of court. Meanwhile, the Sheriff himself promises to make a thorough inquiry and to report all of the facts to the Governor, through the District Attorney.

The facts set out in the report have been communicated to Count Vini here, and he will in turn communicate them to the Italian Foreign Office.

NEWS FROM THE FAR EAST. A Hurricane in Japan—Philippine Notes—Japanese Aiding Filipinos.

VICTORIA, B. C., July 27.—The steamship Kinsu Maru arrived to-day, after a record-breaking trip from China. She had few white passengers, among them being Dr. Eastlake, of New York, who is introducing the electrical railway system into Japan.

The officers of the ship report that the plague has been almost stamped out, so far as ships are concerned.

A terrible hurricane swept the Japanese coast from July 18 to July 19th. In Ushijima, Oye District, Kushima prefecture, seventy houses were washed away, fifty persons were killed, and thirty are missing. In Isajima, Ito District, the same prefecture, over forty houses were demolished and many people are missing. At Algumura, Katsunuma District, Miyazaki prefecture, a landslide occurred on the night of July 19th, owing to the heavy rain. Five houses were crushed under the debris and twenty-eight persons were either killed or injured.

When the Fushu Maru left Yokohama the United States cruiser Boston had arrived from Manila, on her way to San Francisco; also, the transport Hancock, which had 300 Nebraska men aboard.

THE PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN. The transport Relief left on the same day as the Hancock. One for America, with 300 soldiers aboard, from Manila, mostly Kansas men. Of these Captain Bradley, of the Tenth Kansas, has a bullet in the rear of his heart, and Dr. Eastlake says he cannot recover. His signal man is with him, with a shattered jaw, having been wounded three times before dropping out. Captain Bradley autographs General Otis's management of the campaign, but says he is overworked. The Captain recommends the pouring in of troops enough to suppress the rebels. He speaks in terms of the warm admiration of the American troops, who, he says, have displayed the utmost coolness and bravery. He brings a sensational report with reference to the army of the Philippines, saying that the names of the Filipino officers and the character of the wounds they make show that they are not Mausers. In the same connection he gives currency to the rumor that before the outbreak a Japanese firm had filled a large order for the Filipinos for the deadly Murata rifle, which has a much longer range than the American weapon. The sale is alleged to have been consummated secretly and without the knowledge of the Japanese Government.

Strong indignation is expressed in Hong Kong over the reported withdrawal of Great Britain from Shamching. It is said that an indemnity of \$5,000 was accepted by Great Britain.

FATE OF A DESERTER. Barbarous Treatment of Wounded Traitor by American Troops.

KANSAS CITY, MO., July 27.—The tragic scene which attended the death of Corporal Leonard F. Hayes, America's only traitor in the Philippines, was witnessed by Sergeant George A. Lamarsh, of Company H, Twentieth Kansas Volunteers, now in this city.

Corporal Hayes, he says, became enamored of a Filipino beauty, and deserting his comrades, was placed in charge of a Filipino battery, with the rank of lieutenant. He met his death almost in the first engagement in which he fought against his country. Speaking of the battle, Sergeant Lamarsh said:

"We had charged the Filipinos, driving them back and killing and wounding many. Among the wounded left on the field we found Hayes. He was recognized by several of the boys. One of our soldiers of the Second Oregon drove his bayonet through the body of the wounded traitor and lifted him above his head, and held him there while the soldiers shot him. The body was then thrown into a trench and buried with several dead Filipinos. We have treated him worse if we had known how."

Hayes was a corporal in Company I, First Colorado Volunteers.

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE. Exemption from Taxation of Manufacturing Enterprises.

ATLANTA, GA., July 27.—The final session of the Convention of the Southern Industrial League was held here to-day. By resolution, the convention pledged its influence to secure State and municipal legislation looking toward the exemption from taxation for a limited time of all manufacturing enterprises to be located within the States represented in the league.

The following were chosen vice-presidents: Georgia, W. E. Reagin; Alabama, George Malone, of Dothan; Florida, John P. Coffin, Lake Butler; North Carolina, D. A. Tompkins, of Charlotte; South Carolina, J. M. Anderson.

The term of office is one year.

A paper on "The Necessity of Cotton-Baling Reform," prepared by D. C. Ball, of St. Louis, was read by T. B. Blake, of this city.

WANT TO BELONG TO US. Kusslers, However, Are Too Late in Making It Known.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 27.—The Call to-day says:

The natives of the Island of Kusale, in the Carolines, want to be annexed to the United States. The King, high chiefs, and prominent men on the island to the number of seventy-two have forwarded a petition to that effect to San Francisco.

Under the request, it is laid before the President. They say that they would like the Spaniards or the Germans, but simply ask to be taken under the folds of the Stars and Stripes. The petition was forwarded to-day to the President.

Now that Germany has purchased the group of islands, she will at once take possession, and then there may be war in Kusale similar to that in the Philippines. The petition of the Kusslers has arrived too late.

THE MCKINLEYS AT CHAMPLAIN. President Immediately Proceeds to Take Long Walks.

PLATTSBURG, N. Y., July 27.—President and Mrs. McKinley spent their first day at Hotel Champlain very quietly. After their arrival this morning the President took a long walk through the grounds surrounding the hotel. He was alone, and Mr. McKinley took another long walk. Mr. McKinley remained in her apartments all day.

This afternoon the President received official notice of the death of President McKinley, of the Republic of Santo Domingo. He immediately dictated and sent a dispatch of condolence.

Attorney-General Griggs and family have engaged one of the cottages connected with the hotel, and will arrive here August 15th for a stay of several weeks.

WILLIAMS JAILED AT SAVANNAH. Militia Discharged—Bainbridge and Safford Both Quilt.

SAVANNAH, GA., July 27.—John Miller, alias Williams, the Bainbridge criminal, was safely landed in jail here this morning. He came under escort of two companies of militia from Bainbridge to Valdosta, and from that point in the custody of a deputy sheriff and two militia officers. There was not a ripple of demonstration here. The four companies of militia were discharged on duty at Bainbridge have been discharged on duty at Bainbridge and Safford.

The Electric-Fan Contract. To the Editor of the Dispatch:

With reference to the award yesterday of the contract for equipping the Council chamber and committee-rooms in the City Hall with thirteen electric fans, I desire to call attention to the manner in which this was done. The bids were opened at noon, and the contract was awarded, not to the lowest, but to the next to the highest bidder. None of the bidders, except the successful one, were informed of the award until the day after it was made.

The following is a list of those who were awarded the contract and their bids: W. H. Jenks \$28.75 Electric Construction Company of Virginia 25.00 Tower 28.00 Company 28.00 J. E. Caudle Manufacturing Company 28.00 W. D. Marrow 23.75

Disaster on the Volga. BERLIN, July 27.—A dispatch received here from Nijni-Novgorod reports that a passenger steamer, collided on the river Volga and that the latter sank, drowning 135 persons. The captain of the cargo ship has been arrested for disregarding signals.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Marrow* (my 14-Sun. W. & F. 131)

SPECIAL SALE STILL ON.

HUNDREDS OF THESE ELEGANT SUITS WERE SOLD LAST WEEK. HUNDREDS STILL TO BE SOLD. EVERY SUIT IS FRENCH FACED BACK TO THE ARM HOLE. WHETHER YOU PAY \$3.90 OR \$10 THE DOUBLE GUARANTEE BINDS THE SALE. MONEY BACK INSTANTANEOUSLY. ALL CLOTHING REPAIRED FREE ONE YEAR.

THOSE DOUBLE-BREADED SERGE COATS are "Wonders"—guaranteed Washington Mills, \$2.50

5c BLACK AND TAN HALF HOSE. 5c 36c Percale and Cheviot Negligee Shirts, detached cuffs 36c

10c EXTRA ELASTIC SUSPENDERS. 10c \$1 All-Leather Lace and Congress Shoes, sizes 6 to 11. \$1

FLYER—Saturday—One Day Only—10c

BOYS' CRASH CAPS, Plain and Fancy

THE GLOBE

BROAD AND SEVENTH STS

Summer Necessities

Plenty

TO IMPROVE OUR TOBACCO.

Investigations by Savants of the Agricultural Department.

(New York Sun.)

WASHINGTON, July 27.—A group of scientific men attached to the Department of Agriculture are industriously studying the question of how to improve the grade of American tobacco. Each has his special branch of the investigation, which has two objects in view. First and most important to the consumer, they desire to improve the grade of the home-grown tobacco so that it will be possible to furnish smoking material at a reasonable price, which shall be equal to the expensive foreign brands, and, secondly, which is of more importance to the producer, they desire to ascertain definitely just what it is—climate, soil, or process of curing—that produces so much better tobacco in foreign countries than that produced in the United States. If they can discover wherein the subtle distinction lies, and teach to the American producer the secret of tanning and flavoring his tobacco, they will confer upon the consumer an inestimable blessing, and at the same time pay millions of dollars into the pockets of American farmers which are now sent in other countries.

The work now being carried on at the Department of Agriculture is divided between the divisions of vegetable physiology and pathology and of soils. In the first division Mr. Oscar Loew, whose work in bacteria and yeasts has already attracted widespread attention, is the moving spirit, and in the division of soils Mr. J. H. Williams, who has made valuable researches, Emile Muir and others have also contributed largely to the experiments and observations now in progress. The following will give some idea of their work and its results.

A tariff of 25 cents per pound on wrappers and 5 cents per pound on filler leaf has served to raise the price of home-grown cigar tobacco to very slightly. Sumatra wrappers bring \$2.50 per pound, while Connecticut wrappers are worth 25 cents only. Preference for the Sumatra leaf can be ascribed to but one thing, its superior excellence. Care in handling has something to do with the difference in price. The Sumatra wrapper is smooth and fine and looks well in a case. It is well assorted as to length, color, and shade, and a pound will cover four or five times as much cigar as the Connecticut leaf. Elasticity, pliability, size, shape, color, size of the veins, the fineness and peculiar grain of the Sumatra wrapper and silkiness of the Sumatra leaf are all to be considered. To compare the two is to compare the difference in appearance, and then one which will be equal, if not superior, in flavor and aroma. The first can be secured by careful cultivation and curing, perhaps, but the second is a matter of soil.

To discover its source, On the soil of Connecticut and Florida it is hoped a tobacco leaf can be produced which will equal that of Sumatra and Cuba. Whatever is deficient in soil or climate must be supplied, but how? That is what is puzzling the scientific men. Little is known of the chemical proportions of the leaf, particularly the part which contributes to the flavor and aroma. It is probable that the actual amount of nicotine is relatively unimportant, and it is certain that the excellence of the leaf and its adaptation to curing is in very general way upon the amount of nicotine. It has long been known that certain of the potassium salts, especially potassium chloride, cannot be used at all for the production of high types of cigar tobacco, as they give the leaf a poor burn. It is, furthermore, known that the tobacco grower tends to produce a large leaf of inferior quality, containing an increased amount of nicotine. Investigations by the division of soils have shown that he light, sandy soils of the Connecticut Valley are similar in their physical properties to the tobacco lands of Florida, the Vuelta Abajo district of Cuba, and to the tobacco districts of Sumatra. There is, further, no difference in the meteorological data from these places. The general way to explain the difference in the character of the leaf produced. It is, therefore, important to ascertain, if possible, why, under similar circumstances, a superior leaf is produced to that of the Connecticut Valley. It is clearly recognized that the tobacco leaf is in a very general way upon the fermentation changes are dependent on a certain quality of